



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

February 18, 2003

The Honorable Dan Swecker
Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee
Post Office Box 40420
103 Newhouse Building
Olympia, Washington 98504-0420

Dear Senator Swecker,

I am writing as chair of the Washington State Board of Health to share the Board's support of Senate Bill 5649, relating to referencing the United States Food and Drug Administration's (US FDA) Food Code in RCW 43.20, which will be heard in your committee February 5, 2003.

In November 2001 the Board initiated revision of Chapter 246-215 WAC, food service regulations, "with the goal of developing regulations that are more consistent statewide, using the FDA Food Code as a guide."

On October 9, 2002, the Board approved the motion:

Motion: The Board requests that the Department of Health and the Office of Financial Management request legislation referencing the FDA Food Code as a basis for food service regulations. The request should be to place the following language in a new section within Chapter 43.20 RCW:
"The State Board shall consider the most recent version of the United States food and drug administration's food code for the purpose of adopting rules for food service."

SB 5649 would enact this motion, which is also consistent with the goals of the current rule revision process. It is expected that referencing the US FDA Food Code in law would expedite completion of the current food code rule revision process, saving time and money.

Sincerely,

Linda Lake
Chair, Washington State Board of Health

cc: Senate Agriculture Committee Members
Washington State Board of Health Members
Mr. Don Sloma, Washington State Board of Health
Ms. Mich'l Prentice Needham, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Ms. Patty Hayes, Department of Health
Ms. Jennifer Tebaldi, Department of Health